

HOUSE RESOLUTION 138

By Doss

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate the life of Andy Adkins of Lawrence County.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body wish to commemorate the life of Andy Adkins, a beloved son of Lawrence County and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, blessing and positively impacting everyone who knew him, this outstanding young man was tragically taken from this life in a traffic accident on May 17, 2012, but 2 Corinthians 5:8 reminds us that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord; and

WHEREAS, this beloved son, grandson, brother, uncle, nephew, and friend was known as the young man with a smile and a firm handshake. He attended Ethridge Elementary School and graduated from Lawrence County High School (LCHS) in 2007; and

WHEREAS, quick-witted with a unique sense of humor, Andy was always the center of attention, and he made friends quite easily. In 2007, he was awarded "Big Kahuna" of LCHS for his exceptional fundraising accomplishments on behalf of the LCHS Scholarship Fund; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating his leadership, Andy was active in the Student Government Association and as an officer for two years in the LCHS Future Farmers of America Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Andy's huge heart, his winning smile, and his way with people were all reasons why his classmates voted him "Most Congenial" for all four of his high school years; and

WHEREAS, he developed many friendships through his involvement in church, sports, school activities, cattle shows, and particularly through his love of the Tennessee Walking Horse. Andy discovered his passion for horses as a toddler, and he always said that he would

train walking horses for a living, a goal he accomplished through the establishment of Andy Adkins Stables in January 2012; and

WHEREAS, Andy gained Walking Horse notoriety as the little boy on the big horse named "It's My Time"; at eight years old, he won the hearts of 30,000 fans as they cheered him to blue ribbon honors. His love for horses turned into a passion and then a professional occupation after high school; and

WHEREAS, he won four World Championships at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville by age twenty-three, an achievement many have only dreamed of reaching; and

WHEREAS, Andy's love for horses was surpassed only by his love for God; as a child, he spoke publicly at monthly youth nights and area-wide youth devotionals, and on Sundays he faithfully attended weekly worship services. He carried his Christian duty beyond the walls of the church by assisting on mission trips, and he tried to be "a man after God's own heart"; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those individuals who have made a positive impact on the people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, by means of Public Chapter 947 of 2014, the members of the 108<sup>th</sup> General Assembly voted to designate the bridge on the U.S. Highway 64 Bypass in Lawrence County that spans Highway 43 as the "Andy Adkins Memorial Bridge"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should honor the memory of this beloved son, congenial and ambitious young man, and dedicated resident of Lawrence County, who tragically lost his life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory and celebrate the life of Andy Adkins on the occasion of the dedication of the bridge to be named in his honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.